

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Application in light of the Office Action dated October 14, 2003. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-9, 13, 14, 16, 18-35, 38-42, and 44-63 were pending. Applicants have amended Claims 1, 32, and 63. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims and favorable action in this case. Applicants have responded to each notation by the Examiner.

Applicants note that the Draftsperson objected to the drawings. When the case is allowed, Applicants will submit corrected drawings.

Section 103 Rejections

The Examiner rejected to Claims 1-9, 13, 14, 16, 18-35, and 38-63 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,765,140 issued to Knudson et al. ("*Knudson*"). Applicants note that the Examiner has not identified where numerous limitations of each of the independent claims 1, 32 and 63 can be found in the Knudson reference. It appears that the Examiner did not do so because of his contention that no action is being taken on the data so the data is entitled to little if any patentable weight. While Applicants disagree that the Examiner may simply ignore claim limitations as if they did not exist, it is unnecessary and unproductive for Applicants to engage in a debate with the Examiner on this point. Applicants would also point out that Claims 1 and 63 both recite at least displaying data according to a predetermined security scheme, etc. Such steps certainly involve "action being taken" on the data. Again, however, it is not necessary for Applicants to engage in a debate with the Examiner on this point.

Applicants have amended each of independent Claims 1, 32, and 63 to more precisely claim certain elements of the claimed invention. In each of the amended independent claims, Applicants have specified specific actions being taken on data which are not disclosed by or suggested by Knudson. Specifically, Applicants have amended the claims to better define "tactics" and their relationship to "milestone categories" and to describe what actions are taken when a particular predefined tactic is selected by the user for a particular project. Claim 1 recites that upon such selection of a first tactic, "automatically associating with the particular project at least one milestone having a particular milestone category that was previously associated with the first tactic."

This feature of the invention allows the operator of a project management system to obtain consistent milestone definitions for various types of tactics. As discussed in the specification, such consistency can be particularly helpful in a large organization.

As an example, Figure 15D can be used to illustrate this aspect of the invention. This example is intended to illustrate an embodiment of the claimed invention and not to limit the claims. When dealing with software systems, for example, one tactic associated with a particular project might be to repair an existing system as illustrated. In this example, there are 4 milestone categories associated with the repair of an existing system: assess, modification, test, and implement. In using the present invention, these four milestone categories can be previously associated with the "repair existing system" tactic type. Thus, when a user of the project management system decides that it is necessary to repair an existing system during the project, the user might select the "repair existing system" tactic type from a menu of possible tactic types. At that point, the system may automatically associate four milestones with the project and tactic. Here, the four milestones that may be automatically assigned have the milestone types: assess, modification, test, and implement. By automatically assigning milestone types, the invention saves time in having to enter the milestone information and promotes uniformity in project management.

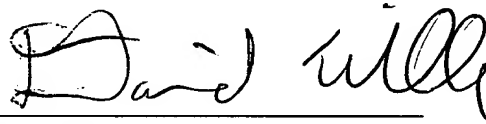
Because neither the claimed invention, nor its advantages are taught or suggested by Knudson, Applicants submit that Claims 1, 32, and 63 are patentable. All other pending claims depend upon one of these independent claims, either directly or indirectly, and, therefore, are patentable for the same reasons that Claims 1, 32, and 63 are patentable. Applicants request full consideration of all pending claims.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for immediate allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clear and apparent, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.

Applicants do not believe any fees are due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 05-0765 of Electronic Data Systems Corporation. If there are matters that can be discussed by telephone to advance prosecution of this application, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact its attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,
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